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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. [redacted] 25X1A

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Ecuador

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SUBJECT Communist Penetration of Labor Unions in Coastal Region

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25X1X SOURCE [redacted]

1. The bulk of Communist strength in the coastal region of Ecuador is found in the labor unions, most of which can claim a majority of Socialist members. Although the Partido Comunista del Ecuador (PCE) is not satisfied with the progress made so far, it is noteworthy that some of the strongest and most influential unions are under Communist control. Among them are:

   a. Guayaquil Brewery Union
   b. Valdez Sugar Mill Union
   c. Cement Factory Union
   d. Duran Branch of the Railroad Union
   e. Milagro Rice Mill Unions
   f. Ancon Mining Union
   g. Guayaquil Shoe Factory Union

2. It is anticipated by Party leaders that they will have to maintain close liaison with the union cells in the event of future underground operations necessitated by a possible third world war. A leading Communist of the Guayaquil area recently stated that the Communist bloc in each union was already formulating plans for effective sabotage. He stated that Party members within the cement factory of Guayaquil have facilities at their disposal to place the entire factory out of commission at any given time.

3. The usual method employed in gaining control of a union, even though Communist members may be in the minority, is to gain a majority representation on the directive committee. The Communists have successfully employed this strategy in several unions, among them the Ancon, Valdez, and cement factory.

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